



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Thursday
24 May 1979

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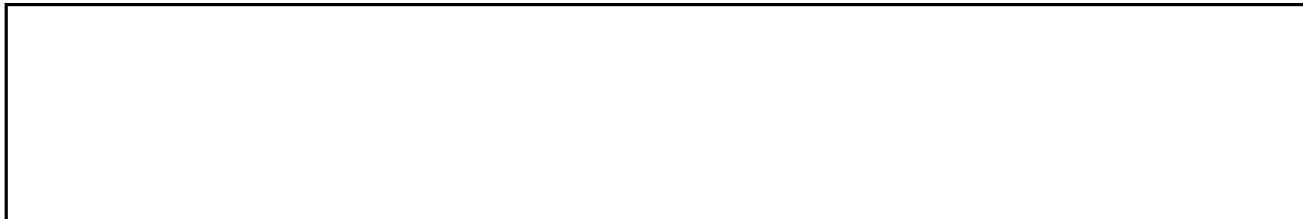
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Briefs and Comments



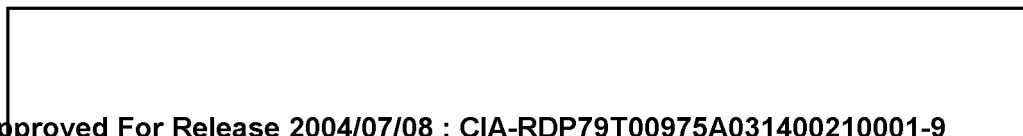
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Overnight Reports 18

The Overnight Reports, printed on yellow paper as the final section of the *Daily*, will often contain materials that update the Situation Reports and Briefs and Comments.



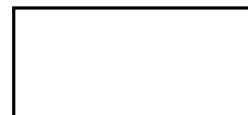
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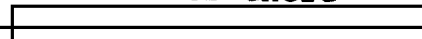
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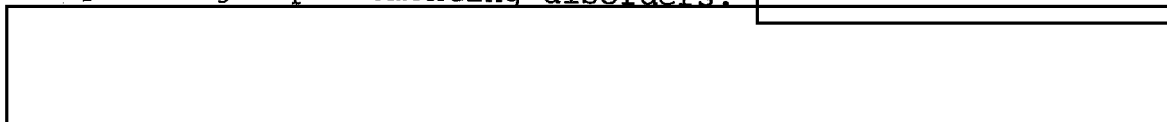


NEPAL: Student Riot

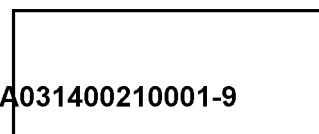
The security situation deteriorated further yesterday when student rioting broke out in Kathmandu despite a tacit agreement earlier this week between the government and some student leaders. Agitators apparently convinced a large student meeting that the government had bribed student leaders to accept concessions. For the first time in the capital, the Army may have assisted the police in restoring order--a development that would constitute a significant departure from the policy of restraint the government has employed in meeting the student challenge. Troops have also moved into areas along the border with India to support police efforts there against groups fomenting disorders.



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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

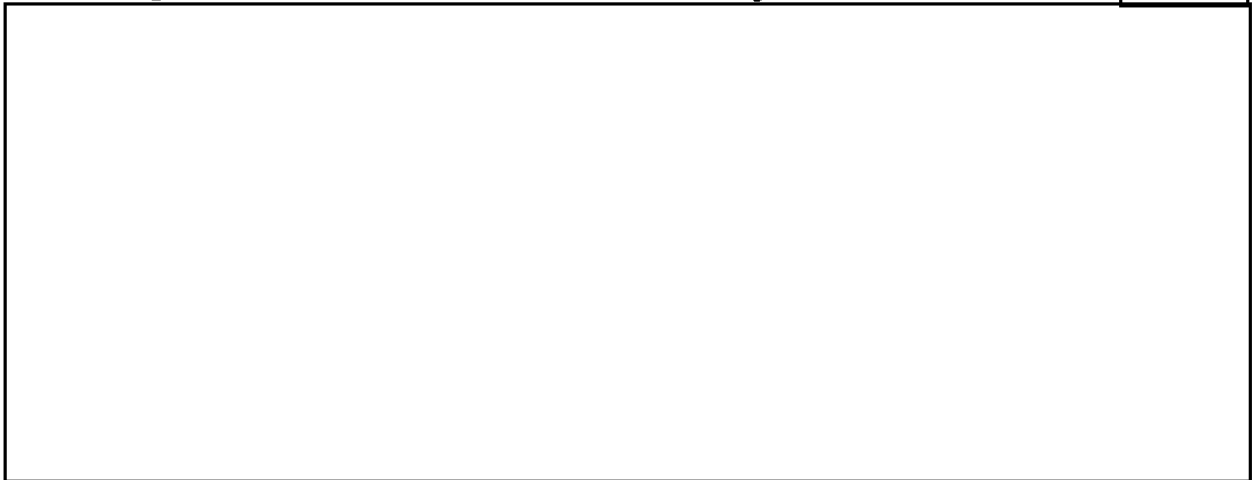
(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Israel-Lebanon

The US Embassy in Beirut reported that Israeli aircraft bombed two towns about 15 kilometers south of Beirut yesterday evening. Lebanese press reports say 10 persons were killed and 50 wounded, the majority women and children. The attacks apparently were made in retaliation for an attack by the Palestine Liberation Organization on an Israeli bus stop on Tuesday. Early this morning an Israeli village near the Lebanese border was hit by artillery shells from Lebanon, according to Israeli radio.

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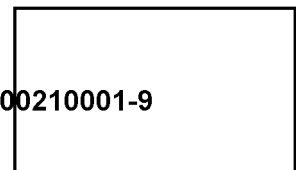


El Salvador

The government of El Salvador last night imposed a 30-day state of siege. The action came following the assassination of the country's Education Minister by guerrillas who said they were retaliating for the deaths of 14 students killed in a clash with police on Tuesday.



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Turkey-USSR

Turkey and the USSR yesterday signed a protocol that would enable cooperation in oil exploration and drilling in Turkey, according to an announcement by Turkish Energy and National Resource Minister Baykal. He told reporters the protocol would form the basis for contracts on joint ventures to be signed within the next three months, under which the USSR would provide machinery, spare parts, and technical expertise. The signing of the document came at the end of a visit to Turkey by Soviet Geology Minister Kozlovskiy. [REDACTED]

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Peru

President Morales Bermudez yesterday ruled out a general election this year but said the ruling military government would probably hand over power to an elected government in July 1980, according to a Western press report. He specified no date for general and presidential elections but said they could be held in the first quarter of next year and a new president inaugurated on Peru's national day, 28 July. Morales Bermudez also said that additional civilians would soon join the two already in his 15-member cabinet. [REDACTED]

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Nepal

King Birendra announced this morning that he would name an election commission within a week to set up a referendum on whether the country should retain its present non-party system of government with suitable reforms, or whether a multiparty form of government should be established. According to a press report, the referendum would be held by secret ballot and be open to all adults. (See page 13 for a report on Nepal's current security situation.) [REDACTED]

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West Germany

As expected, a special West German assembly yesterday elected Karl Carstens as the Federal Republic's next president. He won on the first ballot, defeating the first woman candidate ever nominated for the largely ceremonial post. Carstens' victory marked the first major electoral victory in 10 years for the conservative Christian Democrats and their Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union. [REDACTED]

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Eastern Europe

The US Embassy in Prague reported that Czechoslovakia's Cardinal Tomasek told the West German Ambassador on 9 May that he doubted Czechoslovak authorities would allow him to travel to Poland for the Papal visit, but it was not clear whether he had asked permission or had based his feelings on past experience with the regime. The Embassy noted it had no indication that the government's eventual decision would be based on other than local church-state considerations. The US Embassy in Budapest, however, reported that the Italian and French Ambassadors said on 21 May that Hungarian Cardinal Lekai had told them he was planning to go to Poland during the Pope's visit, and that he planned to go to Czestochowa but not to Krakow. [REDACTED]

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Lesotho

According to a Western press report, more than 50 people were killed in fighting early today between police and guerrillas in the southern part of Lesotho, where 15 armed men were killed in a skirmish with police last weekend. Police said the guerrillas were supporters of the Congress Party that reportedly went underground in 1974 following its unsuccessful coup attempt against the government. [REDACTED]

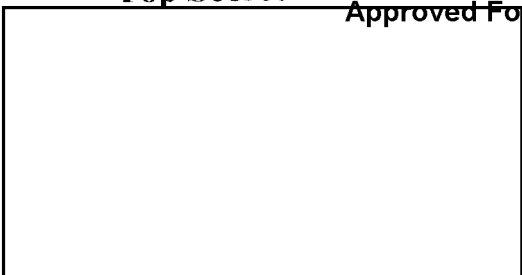
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